

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. A-71183/DJB/VEJ
Application No. 10/009,325*In the Claims:*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer)
2. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system ~~[[component]]~~ according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein the alloy ~~[[which]]~~ contains no more than about 8.5 wt% Al.
3. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system ~~[[component]]~~ according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein the alloy ~~[[which]]~~ contains less than 0.05 wt% Mn.
4. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system ~~[[component]]~~ according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein the alloy has a composition, in wt%, of:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Al | 6.0 ± 1.0 |
| Si | 1.0 ± 0.5 |
| C | 0.005 - 0.02 |
| P | ≤ 0.04 |
| S | ≤ 0.04 |
| Cr | ≤ 0.10 |
| (Al + Si) = 6.5 to 7.5 | |

Residue Fe, excluding incidental impurities.
5. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system ~~[[component]]~~ according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein the alloy contains no Cr.
6. (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer)

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7. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system ~~[[component]]~~ according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 13, wherein the Al_2O_3 surface layer on the component has a thickness in the range of from about 1 to about 10 microns.

8. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system ~~[[component]]~~ according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein source material for the alloy at least includes scrap metal.

9. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system ~~[[component]]~~ according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein the component ~~[[which]]~~ is a gas separator disposed ~~[[or adapted to be disposed]]~~ between adjacent fuel cells in the system.

10. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system ~~[[component]]~~ according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 13, wherein the ~~[[which is a]]~~ component is selected from the group consisting of a manifold, a base plate, a current collector strap, ducting, a heat exchanger and a heat exchanger plate. ~~[[disposed or adapted to be disposed in the solid oxide fuel cell system.]]~~

11. (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer)

12. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system ~~[[component]]~~ according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 13, wherein the Al_2O_3 surface layer on the component has a thickness in the range of from about 1 to about 3 microns.

13. (Currently amended) A solid oxide fuel cell system comprising a solid oxide fuel cell system component which is adapted to be exposed to an oxidising atmosphere in the fuel cell system at a temperature in excess of 750°C and which is formed of a heat resistant alloy having a composition, in wt%, of:

| | |
|----|------------|
| Al | 5.0-10.0 |
| Si | 0.1-3.8 |
| Mn | \leq 0.5 |

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Application No. 10/009,325Cu \leq 0.23Ni \leq 0.61C \leq 0.02P \leq 0.04S \leq 0.04Cr $<$ 5.0,

Residue Fe, excluding incidental impurities, and
wherein the component has a surface layer of Al_2O_3 .

14. (New) A solid oxide fuel cell system according to claim 13, wherein the Al_2O_3 surface layer or the component is formed by exposure of a surface of the component to oxidising atmosphere at elevated temperatures.